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A FURTHER ACCOUNT

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

ASSOCIATION OF FELLOWS

OF THE

Royal College of Surgeons of England,

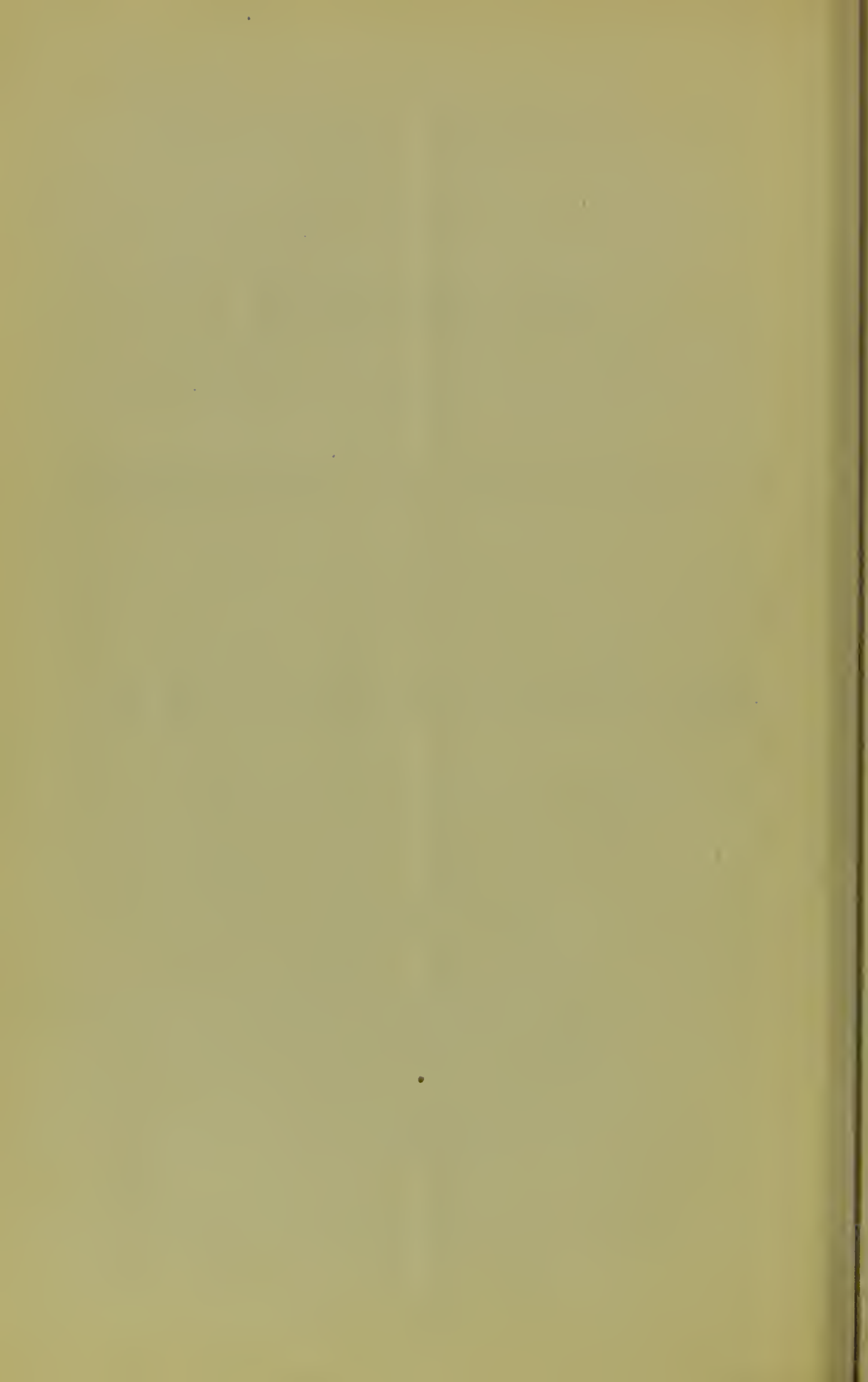
FROM MARCH, 1890, TO JUNE, 1892.



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1892.



# A FURTHER ACCOUNT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

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From March, 1890, to June, 1892.

SINCE the publication of the account of the proceedings of the Association of Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons of England from its origin in 1884 to March, 1890, the Committee of the Association has been actively engaged in endeavouring to carry out the policy formulated by the Committee on February 21st, 1891, and subsequently approved at a General Meeting of the Association. The Committee has held 12 meetings, there have been three general meetings of the Association, eight or nine meetings of sub-committees appointed for various purposes, and a deputation from the Association has held a conference with a committee of the Council of the College of Surgeons with very satisfactory results. To elucidate the proceedings of the Committee, it is desirable to recall the facts stated in the last Report that at a meeting of the Committee of the Association held on February 21st, 1890, it was resolved that a succinct account of the origin and progress of the Association should be prepared for circulation among the Fellows, that fresh endeavours should be made to carry out the original articles of the Association, and that steps should be taken to obtain for the Fellows the privilege of meeting within the walls of the College, and of being convened separately from the members to deliberate upon the affairs of the College.

The account of the proceedings of the Association was issued by the Committee in March, and the proposals of the Committee received the unanimous sanction of the Association at a General Meeting held on June 14th, 1890, at 20, Hanover Square. At this meeting the following resolutions were adopted :—

“1.—That no arrangement between the University of London and the College of Surgeons, for the purpose of conferring degrees, will be satisfactory without previous consultation of the Fellows of the College of Surgeons.

“2.—That the Council of the College should be asked to receive a deputation from the Association.

“3.—That this meeting of the Association desires to express its strong disapproval of the system of voting papers adopted by the College. It is of opinion that a simple voting paper should be issued to each Fellow at the same time, and together with the list of candidates from which the selection is to be made.

“4.—That a notice should be sent to all Provincial Fellows reminding them of the date of election to the Council, and that the matter should be referred to the Committee to be carried into effect.”

In accordance with these resolutions the Committee decided on the 23rd of July that the deputation should take up three main subjects:—

- (1) The right of meeting at the College for Fellows of the College;
- (2) The mode of distribution of voting papers; and (3) The question of amalgamation of the Royal College of Surgeons of England with the University of London.

The Honorary Secretary was instructed to write and ask the Council to receive a Deputation in October, and after some correspondence the President of the College fixed the 30th October at 4 p.m. as the day and hour for receiving the Deputation. On that day the Deputation was received by a Committee of ten members of the Council of the College; the Deputation comprised Mr. George Pollock, President of the Association, Mr. Holmes and Mr. Rivington, Vice-Presidents, Dr. Robert Barnes, Dr. Collins, Mr. Lawson Tait, Mr. Tweedy, the late Mr. William Adams, Mr. Manly Sims, and Mr. Herbert Allingham, whilst the Committee of Council consisted of Mr. Thomas Bryant (President), Mr. Thomas Smith and Sir William MacCormac (Vice-Presidents), Sir Spencer Wells, Bart., Sir William Savory, Bart., Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, Mr. Lund, Mr. Christopher Heath, Mr. Berkeley Hill, and Mr. Howse. The three points above mentioned were discussed *seriatim*, and at the end of the discussion the Deputation were asked to put their propositions in writing, and forward them to the Secretary before the Council Meeting on November 13th. A meeting of the Committee of the Association was held on Friday, November 7th, when the following memorandum was drawn up for the consideration of the Council of the College:—

MEMORANDUM EMBODYING THE VIEWS OF THE DEPUTATION OF THE  
ASSOCIATION OF FELLOWS LAID BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF THE  
COUNCIL OF THE COLLEGE ON OCTOBER 30TH, 1890.

“1.—(*a.*) That the Council be requested, if they have the legal power, to summon, from time to time, meetings of the Fellows separately from the Members, for the purpose of consulting about the affairs of the College, or if they are properly advised that they have not such power, to take steps to obtain it; (*b.*) and the Deputation were instructed to represent to the Council the great desirability of giving the Fellows a Common Room in the College.

“2.—That the Council be requested (*a.*) to send out the voting papers for the Election of Council unasked to every Fellow whose address is known, at the same time as the names of the candidates are issued, instead of requiring Fellows who wish to vote by voting papers to make a request ten days before the election for a voting paper to be sent; (*b.*) to allow voting papers, properly signed and witnessed, to be received at the College up to the day of Election, instead of requiring them to be sent in at least forty-eight hours previously. The present method of distributing voting papers entails upon the Fellows unnecessary trouble, prevents many Fellows from recording their votes, and tends to lessen the interest of the Fellows in the election.

“3.—That it be represented to the Council that no arrangement between the University of London and the Royal College of Surgeons, for the purpose of conferring degrees, should be concluded without the consent and approval of the Fellows of the College, specially convened to discuss the scheme. The Committee of the Association of Fellows desires to add that the opinions of Lord Bramwell and Lord Selborne quoted by Sir Spencer Wells, Bart., at the General Meeting of Nov. 6th, 1890, show that the Council has already the power to summon a meeting of the Fellows separately from the Members, and that this renders it still more necessary that the point should be settled by some authority competent to pronounce a final decision.”



The statement of the Deputation was considered in the Council of the College, paragraph by paragraph, and the following resolutions were adopted after considerable discussion :—

“1.—That Mr. Wilde be instructed to prepare a case for submission to the Attorney-General and Mr. Paget, for their opinion as to whether the Council possess the power to summon a meeting of the Fellows of the College separately from the Members.

“2.—That the consideration of the question of providing a Common Room in the College for the Fellows be postponed.

“3.—That a Committee be appointed to consider and report to the Council on the rules relating to Voting Papers for the election to the Council.

“4.—That with respect to the proposal relating to the negotiations with the University of London, the Deputation of Fellows be informed that the Council have not the power to grant their request.”

The ultimate issue on the three main points introduced by the Deputation may advantageously be stated *seriatim*.

#### 1.—RIGHT OF MEETING OF FELLOWS SEPARATELY FROM THE MEMBERS.

On the 19th February, 1891, the Secretary of the College addressed a letter to the Honorary Secretary of the Association, enclosing a copy of an opinion obtained from the Attorney-General and Mr. Paget, in reference to separate meetings of Fellows. This opinion is here appended.

*Ex parte.*

#### THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

#### MEETINGS OF FELLOWS.

#### OPINION.

We are of opinion that no legal objection exists which prevents the Council of the College granting the use of the College Premises to either the Fellows or the Members for a meeting for purely consultative purposes, and that this course is equally open to the Council whether such Meeting be summoned by the President or Council or merely allowed to take place there with their permission and authority. It must, however, be distinctly understood that such meeting would in no sense be of any official or corporate character or efficacy, and nothing resolved or occurring thereat would in any way alter the rights of the College or any one of its members, whether Fellows or Members only. Any proposals to affect the interests of the Corporation or any of its Members could only be discussed, so as to have effect, at a regularly assembled Meeting of the whole corporate body.

Bye-law XVII. is, in our opinion, a purely prohibitive provision, designed to meet certain specified cases, and no inference can legitimately be drawn therefrom as to any inherent or implied power to summon or countenance any official or effectual Meeting of Fellows only, or of Members as distinguished from Fellows. Nor do we find anything in the Charters giving or implying such power.

We must point out that if any such Meeting of Fellows was either summoned or permitted on the College premises, it would not be consistent or, in our opinion, reasonable, to refuse similar facilities for a Meeting of Members, either with or without the presence of the Fellows, who are, by the constitution of the College necessarily Members, were such a Meeting requested by a substantial number of the Members.

The summoning or permitting such a Meeting of Members would not, in our opinion, constitute any admission of any right of the Members to hold such a meeting on the College premises without summons or permission, but *we think that to permit a Meeting of any Section of the College except in the cases expressly provided by the Charter and Bye-laws would be unwise in view of the pending litigation before Mr. Justice Stirling.* The refusal to call or allow such a Meeting of Members, supposing one of the Fellows alone had previously been held, would be ground for comment and prejudice in the course of that litigation. It is for the Council to consider whether the end they presumably have in view, namely to take the sense of the body of Fellows, cannot as well be attained by some less formal method, either by private Meeting elsewhere than on the College premises or by circular, neither of which courses seems to us open to the same objections as the one suggested.

RICHARD E. WEBSTER.

JOHN R. PAGET.

Temple,  
22nd December, 1890.

The Secretary of the Association was further informed that the Council of the College after due consideration of Counsel's opinion had adopted the following resolution, viz. :—

“That in accordance with Counsel's opinion the Council take no action in reference to separate Meetings of Fellows until the decision of the action ‘Steele v. Savory.’”

In consequence of this decision, the further contemplated action of the Committee of the Association in this direction was for a time suspended, but the Council of the College was pressed by a Sub-Committee for an “assurance that the Council would act upon the powers, which, according to Counsel's opinion were clearly in possession of the Council of the College,” and at the Annual Meeting of the Association on June 25th, a resolution was passed respectfully begging the Council for a definite answer on the subject. The letter of the Secretary of the College in reply to the resolution contained the following important passage :—

“With regard to the request for a definite answer as to the summoning of separate Meetings of Fellows, I am to refer you to my letter of February 19th, inst., addressed to Mr. H. W. Allingham in which the following resolution adopted by the Council was communicated to you:—namely, that in accordance with Counsel's opinion the Council take no action in reference to separate Meetings of Fellows until the decision of the action in the Court of Chancery, ‘Steele v. Savory.’ I am to add that the Council, while desirous of meeting the Fellows separately for consultative purposes, cannot act against the advice of the eminent legal authorities whom they have consulted in the matter by summoning a separate meeting of the Fellows at the present time.”

The action was tried in the Chancery division of the High Court of Justice, before Mr. Justice Romer, on the 26th and 27th January, 1892, and resulted in a decision in favour of the defendants, whose Counsel was not called upon to plead: accordingly the whole action failed and was dismissed with costs. The decision of the action proved to be favorable to the cause of progress, and to the prospects of the Fellows obtaining those constitutional privileges and rights for which the

Association had been striving. At a meeting of the Council of the College held on the 10th of March, the two following resolutions bearing upon the status of the Fellows were carried :—

“1. That a Committee be appointed to consider and report to the Council whether any, and if so what, further advantages can be extended to the Fellows.

“2. That it is desirable to celebrate in some suitable manner the fiftieth anniversary of the institution of the Fellowship of the College (the Charter creating this order being dated September 14th, 1843) and that it be referred to the same Committee to report on the best means of giving effect to the resolution.”

The Report of the Committee was received and adopted by the Council of the College on the 9th of June. The Resolutions agreed to were in substance as follow :—

“1.—That the Meetings of Fellows apart from the Members should be held when the Council deemed it desirable, with or without a requisition from the Fellows.

“2.—That the Room adjoining the Secretary's Office, now forming a part of the Library not used by readers, be furnished as a Common Room for the use of Fellows and Members of the College.

“3.—That the Jubilee of the Fellowship shall be celebrated in 1893 on the day of the College Election. The Fellows will be addressed by the President and a Dinner will be held in the evening.”

The Committee appointed consisted of Sir William Savory, Bart., Mr. Cadge, Mr. Macnamara, Mr. Willett, Mr. Rivington, and the President and Vice-Presidents *ex-officio*.

## 2. VOTING PAPERS.

The discussion in the Council of the College on the 13th of November on the proposals of the Committee of the Association in regard to the distribution and reception of voting papers resulted, as opinion was equally divided in the Council, in the appointment of a Committee on the subject, comprising Sir William Savory, Bart., Mr. E. Lund, Mr. J. Hutchinson, Mr. M. B. Hill, Mr. W. M. Banks, the President and Vice-Presidents. The Report of the Committee, dated 27th November, 1890, and adopted by the Council, was to the following effect :—

“The Committee, in pursuance of the resolution of the Council of the 13th November, 1890, have taken into consideration the Rules relating to voting papers for the election to the Council. They have consulted the Solicitor of the College and have been advised by him, that, as the Bye-Laws now stand, it would not be competent for the Council to send a voting paper to any Fellow who had not applied in writing for it, and after due consideration of the existing rules and the various proposals for alterations therein, have adopted the following resolution expressive of their conclusion in the matter, viz. :—

““That the Committee, having carefully considered the question of the propriety of advising any alteration in the present arrangements for voting by balloting papers, are not prepared to recommend any change.”

“WILLIAM S. SAVORY, *Chairman*.”



### 3. THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS AND THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

Immediately after the reply of the Council of the College to the suggestions of the Deputation had been read to the Committee, the following resolution was unanimously adopted :—

“That the Committee of the Association of Fellows desires to record its emphatic protest against any final settlement between the Council of the College and the Senate of the University of London in the matter of the reconstitution of the University without the Council of the College having consulted either the Fellows of the College, or, if the Fellows cannot be consulted separately, a General Meeting of Fellows and Members.”

The Committee then proceeded to draft a Memorial to the Registrar of the University of London upon the subject.

#### MEMORIAL OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FELLOWS TO REGISTRAR OF UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

The Committee of the Association of the Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons, England, having heard that the Council of the College is now engaged in final negotiations with the University of London respecting the reconstitution of the University, begs to lay the following points before the Senate of the University of London :—

“1.—That these negotiations have been carried on without the knowledge or co-operation of the Fellows or Members of the College of Surgeons.

“2.—That the Council have declined to consult the Fellows of the College in regard to these negotiations, on the ground that they are unable to do so under their charter and bye-laws.

“3.—That, contrary to the expressed wish of the Fellows and Members of the College in General Meeting assembled, the Council is negotiating changes in Metropolitan Medical Graduation, which must materially alter the constitution and influence the status of the College, without submitting the matter to a General Meeting of the College.

“4.—That the Council, as an Executive Committee of 24, appointed to administer collegiate affairs, have been in no way empowered to treat with the University of London in such a matter of collegiate policy, and the members of the Council are confessedly imperfectly acquainted with the intricate questions involved in the scheme of University reconstitution.

“5.—That the Fellows of the College of Surgeons in this matter occupy an inferior position to that of the Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians, inasmuch as the government of that College is vested in the whole body of Fellows, and it is they who are negotiating with the University on behalf of that body.

“6.—That the various schemes prepared by the Senate of the University, which have from time to time been published, have presented several vital points, upon which the opinion of a large body of Fellows is opposed to that set forth by the Council, and which must, unless modified, fail to satisfy the medical and surgical requirements of Metropolitan students.

“*Lastly.*—The Committee of the Association of Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons urges upon the Senate and Convocation of the University the inevitable risks of dissatisfaction and failure which their reconstitution scheme must incur should it be finally adopted without the Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons having had any opportunity to consider and suggest amendments, and this Committee warns the University against regarding the negotiations with the College of Surgeons as settled unless and until the Fellows of the College have had an opportunity of laying their views before the Senate.”

The Committee is speaking on behalf of an Association consisting of more than 300 out of less than 1000 Fellows resident in the United Kingdom.



The foregoing memorial was adopted by the Committee and it was resolved (1). That copies of the Memorial should be sent to

The Lord President of the Council.

The Chairman of the Royal Commission.

The Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

(2). That a General Meeting of the Fellows should be summoned for December 20th, to consider the subject.

The General Meeting thus determined upon was duly held on the 20th December, 1890, at 20, Hanover Square. Mr. George Pollock, the President of the Association, who occupied the chair, explained that the meeting has been called on account of the rapid action of the Council of the College in negotiating with the University of London because of the pressure put upon the Senate of the University by the Commissioners.

On the motion of Mr. Holmes and Mr. Mayo Robson, the resolution already adopted by the Committee was unanimously agreed to. It was also resolved on the motion of Dr. Collins and Mr. Norton :—

“That a Committee of the Association, with power to add to their number, be authorised to act as a deputation to attend if necessary before the London University, the Lord President of the Council, and the Commission of the Teaching University for London.”

Early in March a Sub-Committee of the Committee determined to petition the Council of the College to hold a meeting of the body corporate for the purpose of discussing the revised scheme of the London University, and on 17th April, at a meeting of the Committee a letter from the Secretary of the College was read announcing that a general meeting of Fellows and Members had been fixed for May 11th. In view of this event the Committee drafted the two following resolutions to be proposed at the General Meeting :—

“1. That this meeting regrets that the Council of the College has not seen fit to place before the Fellows and Members the scheme for the re-constitution of the University of London before formally accepting this scheme in the name of the College.

“2. That no increase in the power and influence of the Council of the College over medical education is desirable until the constitution of the College has been so amended as to make the Council adequately representative of the body corporate.”

These resolutions were again discussed at a Sub-Committee Meeting. Mr. Rivington agreed to move the first resolution and the Honorary Secretary was directed to ask Dr. Danford Thomas to second it. Dr. Collins expressed his willingness to speak in its support. With regard to the second resolution Dr. Collins, who had had an interview with the Secretary of the College, informed the Sub-Committee that the clause at the end of the resolution would be out of order. The following modification was, therefore, adopted by the Committee :—“That no increase of the power and influence of the Council of the College over Medical Education and Examination is desirable under present circumstances.” Mr. Holmes undertook to propose the amended resolution.

Reference to the reports of the General Meeting of Fellows and Members of the College on May 11th, 1891, published in the journals, will show that the drafted resolutions were proposed and seconded as pre-arranged and were carried by large majorities. In this connection it is particularly important to note that on the following day the draft Charter embodying the scheme was rejected by Convocation of the University of London. The result of this rejection was that a scheme for the formation of a New University in London, to be called the Albert University, occupied the vacant ground, and negotiations were opened by those interested in the formation of a New University with the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, with a view to engaging its active co-operation in the scheme. With the knowledge of these circumstances and in the expectation that the Council of the College might conclude some arrangement with the promoters of the New University without previous consultation of the Fellows, the subject was discussed by the General Meeting of the Association on June 25th, and the following resolution, moved by Dr. W. J. Collins, and seconded by Mr. J. H. Morgan, was carried unanimously :—

“That the Association of Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons of England objects to the acquisition of any new powers by the College in the matter of conferring Medical degrees, unless and until the Fellows of the College shall have had an opportunity of expressing their opinions, and that copies of this resolution be forwarded by the Hon. Secretary to the Lord President of the Council, the Chancellor of the University of London, the Chairman of Convocation of the University of London, and the President of the Royal College of Surgeons.”

In July it was announced that the Council of the College had determined to hold a General Meeting of the Fellows and Members to consider the scheme for the establishment of a New University in London. In consequence of this the Committee met on July 29th, to consider the course to be taken at the General Meeting and after some discussion the Committee expressed a general approval of a resolution which Mr. Lawson Tait intimated by letter that he intended to move on that occasion. This resolution was carried at the General Meeting at the College with the addition of a rider, proposed by Dr. W. J. Collins, the completed resolution running as follows :—

“That, in the opinion of this meeting, it would be inconsistent with the position and destructive of the functions of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, to constitute itself any part of a University for London, but that in the event of the acceptance of a position in the proposed University by this College, this meeting is of opinion that in view of the disabilities under which the body politic of the Royal College of Surgeons of England labours in comparison with other similar bodies, the representation accorded to the Council in the governing body of the new University is to be regarded as adequate.”

In addition to the three main subjects which have now been dealt with and which were taken up by the Association for the purpose of being pressed upon the attention of the Council of the College by the Deputation from the Association in October, 1890, various other topics and some of very considerable importance have engaged the attention of the Committee. These have been the elections to the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, the formation of Provincial Branches of the Association, the establishment of an Annual Dinner, the mode of conduct of the General Meetings at the College, the scheme for a

five years curriculum, the best means of enlarging the Association, promoting its objects and strengthening its influence, the election of officers and the finances of the Association. Some of these topics require separate notice.

#### 4.—THE ELECTIONS AT THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

In 1890, neither of the candidates supported by the Association for vacancies on the Council were successful, but in 1891 the issue of the election was more fortunate. The result may fairly be ascribed in some measure to the action of the Committee in directing the attention of the constituency to desirable measures of reform and in urging the members of the Association to support the candidates who had accepted the invitation of the Committee to stand for the Council; after very careful consideration and revision both by the Committee and a Sub-Committee the following circular letter was sent out to all the Fellows of the College whose addresses were known :—

#### TO THE FELLOWS OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

In furtherance of the policy of the Association of Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons for the reform of that Institution, and particularly of its methods of government, the Committee of the Association beg to remind you that the points of reform which were originally proposed are the four following :—

- (1) That it would materially conduce to the welfare of the College if the Fellows and Members were invested with a larger share of its management.
- (2) That it is desirable that no alteration in the constitution or relations of the College shall be effected without the consent of the Fellows and Members convened to discuss such alteration.
- (3) That there shall be an annual meeting of the Fellows and Members, at which the annual report of the Council shall be presented, received and adopted.
- (4) That at such meeting the President for the ensuing year shall be elected by the majority of the Fellows present.

These are still, in the main, inoperative (as is proved in the case of No. 2,—by the revised scheme of the University of London not having been submitted to the corporate body until after it had been formally accepted by the Council in the name of the College).

Our experience since the foundation of the Association has brought under consideration some additional subjects to which, in our opinion, the combined action of the Fellows should also be directed :—

- (a) Since the schools of Liverpool, Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Sheffield, Bristol, Oxford and Cambridge, yearly furnish a large and increasing proportion of candidates, and thus contribute considerably to the income of the College, the Committee are strongly of opinion that there should be a fair proportion of provincial examiners appointed by the Council of the College of Surgeons.



- (b) The term for which a member of Council sits, now averaging about eight years, might with advantage be shortened.
- (c) Meetings of the Fellows ought to be summoned apart from the members, as is now authoritatively declared to be legal, and a common room for the Fellows ought to be provided in the College. These points were urged lately upon the Council by a deputation of this Association. The consultation of the Fellows of the College by the Council is the most important of all the measures of reform, and would raise the present constitutional status of the Fellows to the level of that of the Fellows of the College of Physicians and other professional Colleges.

If the Fellows of the College are really desirous that such measures of reform should come into operation it is necessary that they should support those candidates for seats on the Council who will, if elected, use their efforts to secure them.

(Signed)

On behalf of the Committee,

GEORGE POLLOCK, *President*.

T. HOLMES, *Vice-President*.

H. PERCY DUNN, *Hon. Sec.*

P.S.—Fellows of the College who do not already belong to the Association and who are in sympathy with the objects set forth in this circular, are invited to communicate with the Hon. Sec., Mr. PERCY DUNN, and to allow themselves to be proposed as members of the Association.

At the same time it was agreed to forward to each member of the Association a post card, containing the following announcement:—

DEAR SIR,

Mr. Rivington and Mr. Lawson Tait have accepted the invitation of the Committee of the Association to stand for the Council of the College at the ensuing election. It is hoped that they may count on your support as a Member of the Association.

(Signed)

On behalf of the Committee,

H. PERCY DUNN, *Hon. Sec.*

It is gratifying to record that at the election held at the College on July 2nd, one of the candidates thus supported by the Association, viz. :—Mr. Rivington, V.P., was successful, whilst Mr. Lawson Tait polled more votes than sufficed to carry into the Council one of the Fellows who secured a seat on the Council at the election in 1890.

Mr. John Tweedy has accepted the invitation of the Committee to become a candidate at the election on July 7th, 1892.

## 5.—THE ANNUAL DINNER.

The establishment of an Annual Dinner was suggested by the Committee early in 1890, and the proposal was unanimously endorsed at the General Meeting of the Association of Fellows in June, 1890. The details were arranged by a Sub-committee, and the first Dinner was held at the Criterion in the evening of May 11th, 1891, the day on which the General Meeting took place at the College in reference to the revised scheme of the University of London. Mr. George Pollock, the President, occupied the chair, the Secretaries being Mr. Percy Dunn and Dr. W. J. Collins.



## 6.—THE MODE OF CONDUCT OF THE GENERAL MEETINGS AT THE COLLEGE.

At a meeting of the Committee, held on October 22nd, 1891, to settle the business for the Annual Meeting of Fellows and Members on November 5th, Mr. Lawson Tait introduced the question of the absence of Minutes at the General Meetings of Fellows and Members held at the College, and with a view of obtaining an authoritative statement on this point, he proposed the following resolution which was seconded by Dr. Collins and agreed to:—

“That the Hon. Secretary be requested, on behalf of this Committee, to communicate to the President of the Royal College of Surgeons that Mr. Lawson Tait will raise as a point of order at the meeting of the Fellows and Members of the College on November 5th, the question of the reading and confirming the Minutes of the previous General Meeting.”

Before the day fixed for the General Meeting, the Secretary of the College sent a letter to the Hon. Secretary of the Association informing him that the question of the confirmation of the Minutes of the last General Meeting could not be raised. It would be out of order to do so, as each meeting was complete in itself.

## 7. THE SCHEME FOR THE FULFILMENT OF THE FIVE YEARS' CURRICULUM.

The fact that the Council of the College had virtually settled with the College of Physicians the details of a scheme for the five years' curriculum without reference to the views of the Fellows of the College, was introduced to the notice of the Committee on October 22nd. On the motion of Dr. Collins and Mr. Tweedy it was resolved:—

“That in view of the fact that the General Medical Council has invited the consideration of the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons to the details of the scheme suggested for the fulfilment of the five years' curriculum recently recommended by the General Medical Council; and, in view of the fact that a scheme emanating from the Council of this College has been submitted in print to the Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians without the Fellows of this College having been officially informed of the nature of the scheme, this meeting records its regret that on so important a matter the body corporate of this College was not consulted.”

A copy of the resolution was sent to the Hon. Sec. of the Members' Committee, and was submitted to the Secretary of the College, as intended to be proposed at the General Meeting of Fellows and Members, fixed for November 5th. The resolution was stated by the Secretary of the College to be in order but inaccurate. This epithet was based on the circumstance that the Council of the College was actually engaged in submitting the scheme to the Fellows and Members for criticism at the Annual Meeting. The resolution, however, had in view a much earlier consultation of the Fellows and it was moved at the General Meeting by Mr. Bruce Clarke, seconded by Mr. Jabez Hogg, and carried with not more than one or two dissentients.

## 8. ENLARGEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION AND STRENGTHENING ITS INFLUENCE.

This subject engaged the attention of the Committee on November 7th, 1890, and a Sub-Committee was appointed to consider the subject and report to the Committee. Owing to the opinion obtained from the Attorney-General and Mr. Paget and the decision of the Council of the College to await the issue of the action, "*Steele v. Savory*," it was considered by the Sub-Committee advisable also to defer the active prosecution of the object in view until the decision of the action had afforded the Council the opportunity of making concessions to the Fellows. In connection with this subject it may be mentioned that the Committee received in July, 1891, a letter from Mr. T. B. Coombe, of Twyford, Berks, a Member of the Association, containing the following suggestions for the purpose of improving and enlarging the objects of the Association. (1) That the subscription should not be less than 10/6. (2) That there should be regular meetings of the Fellows of the College and not a Committee only. (3) That steps should be taken to prevent Fellows of the R.C.S. Edinburgh and R.C.S. Ireland, and the Fellows of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow representing themselves as F.R.C.S. only without appending their designation. The Committee would be glad to receive at any time from Fellows any further suggestions for rendering the Association more influential and useful, as well as their opinions on Mr. Coombe's suggestions.

## 9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND FINANCE.

On December 9th, 1890, the Committee of the Association received with regret an announcement that, owing to the pressure of increasing professional engagements, Mr. H. W. Allingham would be obliged to retire from the office of Honorary Secretary. The name of Mr. Percy Dunn was submitted to the Committee as his successor, and at a subsequent meeting in February Mr. Dunn was formally appointed. A warm vote of thanks was unanimously passed to Mr. Allingham for his valuable services during the previous four years, and he was appointed a Member of the Committee.

In the nomination of Officers and Members of the Committee, the Committee has endeavoured to make the Executive as strong and as representative as possible.

The Committee takes this opportunity of inviting the Members of the Association to forward their subscriptions to the Hon. Sec. as they become due, as the small amount of the subscription makes it difficult to collect, and the expenditure for printing circulars and reports, without which the influence of the Association would not be extended, is to some extent out of proportion to the actual receipts.

## GENERAL SUMMARY.

The Association of Fellows was formed in 1884 "to promote the general interests of the Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and to consider all matters relating to the constitution, government, and administration of the College, whether in its corporate, examining,

academical, or political capacity." During the discussions which took place whilst the Charters and Bye-laws were being subjected to revision by the Council of the College, both a minute and comprehensive survey of all debateable points was necessitated, but this chapter of collegiate history was closed when the supplemental charter was granted in 1888, and at the annual meeting of the Association held at the Inns of Court Hotel on July 5th, 1888, there was a general consensus of opinion in favour of directing the energies of the Association to improving the social, professional, and political status of the Fellows of the College. This policy received more definite shape and expression in November, 1889, when the following resolution was passed by the Committee:—

"That this Committee, whilst maintaining the organisation of the Fellows' Association, and endeavouring to increase the number of its members, considers that under existing circumstances the undivided attention of the Association should be given to obtaining for the Fellows of the College increased privileges and a more influential voice in the management of that Institution."

The improvement in the position of the Fellows of the College for which the Association has been striving, is desired by the Committee because they believe that it would be for the welfare of the College to establish harmonious, friendly, and intimate relations between the Fellows and the Council, and to invest the Fellows of the College with a larger share in its management. For this end the Committee pressed upon the Council by deputation the desirability of consulting the Fellows of the College separately from the Members. The suggestion was met at first with the statement that the Solicitor of the College had given it as his opinion that under the existing Charters this course of action would be illegal. This decision was contested by the deputation, and the Council was pressed to take Counsels' opinion on the subject. The Council adopted the suggestion with the result that the Attorney-General and Mr. PAGET declared that "no legal objection exists to prevent the Council of the College from granting the use of the College premises to either the Fellows or the Members for a meeting for purely consultative purposes."

Since this opinion was given, the Council has said that it is desirous of meeting the Fellows in this way, and has appointed a Committee to consider whether any further advantages can be extended to the Fellows. The result of the proceedings of this Committee has been recorded on a previous page (p. 7).

Mere advantages for the Fellows the Committee of the Association would not desire to claim, for all the proposals made to the Council for raising the status of the Fellows have been made in the interests of the Institution itself, whose good government and prosperity must largely depend upon the Council of the College being in touch with the Fellows of the College. This has been the keynote of the policy advocated by the Committee of the Association, and explains the requests for regular meetings of the Fellows within the College, for a common room for Fellows of the College, for improvement in the conduct of meetings, for consultation of the Fellows on any new bye-law, on extraordinary expenditure and changes in the constitution, or external relations of the College, and for removal of restrictions to the free exercise of the franchise by means of voting papers.



How far the Fellows have been from occupying the position to which they are entitled has been shown by the frequency with which it has been necessary to pass motions expressing regret that the Council of the College has not consulted the Fellows before giving its sanction to fresh schemes for medical education and examination of great importance to the Fellows and the profession at large. It may, however, be hoped that, as the Council of the College has agreed to calling the Fellows together for consultative purposes, separately from the Members, more satisfactory relations between the Fellows and the Council will be established. The achievement of this result has been due to the persistent efforts of the Association of Fellows, carried out under difficulties legal and otherwise, of which very few can have any adequate conception.

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